

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 28 are presented for examination. Applicant has amended claims 1, 10, 19 and 20 to more properly claim the present invention. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Before addressing the arguments, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the opportunity on June 23, 2004 to discuss the application, the applied references, and the office action.

In Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 5 - 8, 10, 14 - 17 and 19 - 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ranganathan, U.S. Patent No. 5,754,170 ("Ranganathan") in view of Mast, U.S. Patent No. 5,881,287 ("Mast").

In Paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 2 - 4 and 11 - 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ranganathan in view of Mast and further in view of Spilo et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,298,422 ("Spilo").

In Paragraph 5 of the Office Action, Claims 9 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ranganathan in view of Mast and further in view of Sugiyama et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,289,137 ("Sugiyama").

Distinctions between Claimed Invention and U.S. Patent No. 5,754,170 to Ranganathan in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,881,287 to Mast and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,298,422 to Spilo et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,289,137 to Sugiyama et al.

In the subject office action, the Examiner has cited Mast in addition to the citations from the previous office action.

Mast describes a method and apparatus for protecting image data that is loaded into a video adapter memory, from unauthorized copying (Mast / col. 3, lines 25 - 29). Mast describes preventing transfer of image data from the video adapter to other storage means by intercepting data transfer requests, by means of "hooks" into an operating system (Mast / col. 3, lines 29 - 42). In conjunction with the hooks, Mast identifies regions in the video device that contain protected image data, and excludes such regions from data transfer operations (Mast / col. 3, lines 42 - 47).

Specifically, by means of hooks placed in the Windows BitBlt function, Mast is able to monitor when requests are made to transfer data from a

video memory (Mast / col. 9, lines 35 – 38). “BitBlt” is a function having calling parameters “hdcSrc” and “hdcDest,” that copies a bitmap from a source device, hdcSrc, to a destination device, hdcDest (Mast / col. 10, lines 11 – 14). Mast intercepts calls to BitBlt, and modifies the destination region to prevent protected data from being transferred (Mast / col. 10, lines 3 – 5). As explained with respect to FIG. 6 of Mast, in a preferred embodiment the original destination region is modified by subtracting a region of protected images, referred to as CombRgn (e.g., Mast / element 802A of FIG. 8), and then BitBlt is permitted to transfer the contents of the source device memory into the modified destination region (Mast / col. 10, lines 40 – 47). An alternative embodiment is to modify the source region rather than the destination region (Mast / col. 10, lines 5 – 7). The preferred and alternative embodiments are reflected in claims 5, 6, 30, 31, 55 and 56 of Mast.

The present invention concerns modification of a display screen prior to display of a window, when the size and location of the window is such that its background covers a copy protected image. Such modification prevents the window from absorbing copy protected image data into its background, in case the window is defined so as to have a transparent background.

Although Mast teaches protecting image data that is displayed in one or more regions of a display device, Mast does not describe windows that are displayed over protected image data. FIG. 8 of Mast, for example, does not concern windows that are displayed on top of image 802A. Compare FIG. 8 of Mast with FIG. 6 of the present specification. FIG. 8 of Masts shows only a region 802A of protected image data, whereas FIG. 6 of the present specification shows a window 600 displayed over a region of protected image data, namely, the proprietary image shown in FIG. 2 of the present specification. Similarly, FIG. 10 of the present specification further clarifies that the present specification, unlike Mast, concerns both (i) a region in which protected image data 920 is displayed, and (ii) a window 1020 that is displayed over the protected image data 920.

In Paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner cites FIG. 8, drawing 800C of Mast, indicating that Mast teaches “*replacing at least the portion of the screen pixel data with substitute pixel data prior to the window being displayed*”, and “*displaying the window over at least a portion of the substitute pixel data*”. Applicant respectfully submits that although Mast does describe filling substitute data into regions, Mast does not concern windows that are displayed over substitute data.

The rejections of claims 1 - 28 in paragraphs 1 - 5 of the Office Action will now be dealt with specifically.

As to amended independent method claim 1, applicant respectfully submits that the limitations in claim 1 of:

“replacing at least the portion of the screen pixel data with substitute pixel data prior to the window being displayed”,

“displaying the substitute pixel data”, and

“displaying the window over at least a portion of the substitute pixel data”

are neither shown nor suggested in Ranganathan, Mast, Spilo or Sugiyama, taken individually or in combination, as explained hereinabove.

Because claims 2 – 9, 21 and 22 depend from claim 1 and include additional features, applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 – 9, 21 and 22 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Ranganathan, Mast, Spilo, Sugiyama, or a combination of Ranganathan, Mast, Spilo and Sugiyama.

Accordingly claims 1 – 9, 21 and 22 are deemed to be allowable.

As to amended independent system claim 10 applicant respectfully submits that the limitations in claim 10 of:

“a pixel processor for replacing at least the portion of the screen pixel data with substitute pixel data prior to the window being displayed”, and

“a display processor for displaying the screen pixel data and the substitute pixel data, and for displaying the window over at least a portion of the substitute pixel data”

are neither shown nor suggested in Ranganathan, Mast, Spilo or Sugiyama, taken individually or in combination.

Because claims 11 – 18, 23 and 24 depend from claim 10 and include additional features, applicant respectfully submits that claims 11 – 18, 23 and 24 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Ranganathan, Mast, Spilo, Sugiyama, or a combination of Ranganathan, Mast, Spilo and Sugiyama.

Accordingly claims 10 – 18, 23 and 24 are deemed to be allowable.

As to amended independent method claim 19 applicant respectfully submits that the limitations in claim 19 of:

“replacing at least the portion of the screen pixel data with substitute pixel data prior to the window being displayed”,

“displaying the substitute pixel data”, and

“displaying the window over at least a portion of the substitute pixel data”

are neither shown nor suggested in Ranganathan, Mast, Spilo or Sugiyama, taken individually or in combination.

Because claims 25 and 26 depend from claim 19 and include additional features, applicant respectfully submits that claims 25 and 26 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Ranganathan, Mast, Spilo, Sugiyama, or a combination of Ranganathan, Mast, Spilo and Sugiyama.

Accordingly claims 19, 25 and 26 are deemed to be allowable.

As to amended independent system claim 20 applicant respectfully submits that the limitations in claim 20 of:

"a pixel processor for replacing at least the portion of the screen pixel data with substitute pixel data prior to the window being displayed", and

"a display processor for displaying the screen pixel data and the substitute pixel data, and for displaying the window over at least a portion of the substitute pixel data"

are neither shown nor suggested in Ranganathan, Mast, Spilo or Sugiyama, taken individually or in combination.

Because claims 27 and 28 depend from claim 20 and include additional features, applicant respectfully submits that claims 27 and 28 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Ranganathan, Mast, Spilo, Sugiyama, or a combination of Ranganathan, Mast, Spilo and Sugiyama

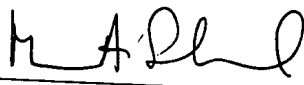
Accordingly claims 20, 27 and 28 are deemed to be allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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